

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 SWF-02 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 H-03

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 DODE-00 HEW-08 INRE-00 SP-03

IGA-02 DRC-01 /141 W

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O P 160830Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3983

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH FLOOD

REF: STATE 177060; STATE 179114

1. AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY ACTING AID COORDINATOR WILSON AND DISASTER RELIEF OFFICER GLAESER, MET TODAY WITH RELIEF MINISTER ABDUL MOMEN TO IDENTIFY CATEGORIES OF EMERGENCY RELIEF ITEMS STILL IN SCARCE SUPPLY AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT COMMITMENTS MADE BY OTHER DONORS WHO WERE CONCENTRATING IN THIS AREA. MOMEN SUMMARIZED BDG'S MOST URGENT NEEDS AS, ABOVE ALL, FOOD, FOLLOWED BY HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS INCLUDING CORRUGATED IRON ROOFING, MEDICINES, AND CLOTH SUITABLE FOR MAKING SARIS AND LUNGIS (HE EMPHASIZED THEY COULD NOT USE NORMAL WESTERN CLOTHING SUCH AS JACKETS).

2. IN DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC ITEMS MENTIONED IN
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REFTELS, MINISTER CONFIRMED CONTINUING NEED FOR TENTS

AND COTTON BLANKETS BUT SHOWED NO INTEREST IN GENERATORS OR COTS. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY OF SURVIVAL BISCUITS, POINTING OUT THAT AN ESTIMATED 30 MILLION PEOPLE WERE AFFECTED BY THE FLOOD, OF WHICH 20 MILLION WERE IN "DESTITUTE" CONDITION. FYI: NORMAL RULE OF THUMB HERE IS THAT NO MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF AN AFFECTED POPULATION ARE ACTUALLY DESTITUTE, WHICH WOULD GIVE US A FIGURE CLOSER TO THREE MILLION. END FYI.

3. IN REPLY TO OUR QUESTION, MOMEN SAID THAT ANY SUCH RELIEF SUPPLIES WOULD BE HANDLED THROUGH RELIEF MINISTRY AND DELIVERED TO LOCAL OFFICIALS AS FAR DOWN AS THE UNION COUNCILS.

4. IN LIGHT OF THIS DISCUSSION, MISSION RECOMMENDS DISPATCH OF 15,00 COTTON BLANKETS AND 600 6-MAN TENTS FROM GUAM DEPOT. WE ALSO RECOMMEND URGENT PROVISION OF ENOUGH BISCUITS - OBVIOUSLY WITHIN LIMITS AVAILABLE - TO ASSIST FEEDING APPROXIMATELY 3. MILLION PEOPLE FOR ONE MONTH PERIOD. (SEPARATE MESSAGE ON BISCUIT AVAILABILITY, REFERRED TO IN STATE 179114, HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED HERE).

5. WE HAVE NOT ADDRESSED IN THIS MESSAGE MINISTER'S REQUEST FOR MORE MEDICINE BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT SUPPLIES ALREADY RECEIVED OR ON ORDER THROUGH UNICEF AND WHO, AMONG OTHER DONORS, ARE ADEQUATE TO MEET EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR NEXT 90 DAYS.
BOSTER

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